Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(currently amended). A diagnostic specimen system comprising a population of biomedical specimen collection vessels, each having a wireless electronic memory tag attached to the vessel for non-contact storage and retrieval of information, wherein the population includes a members located at a vessel distribution facility, a specimen collection facility, and a specimen testing laboratory.

2.(previously presented). A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each electronic memory tag includes a radio frequency transponder.

3.(previously presented). A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each electronic memory tag contains stored data including an identification code for the vessel.

4.(previously presented). A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 3 further including a label imprinted with a bar code attached to each vessel, the bar code identifying the vessel.

5.(currently amended). A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each electronic memory tag contains stored data including the identity of a supplier of the ~~container~~ vessel and product information about the vessel.

6.(previously presented). A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein an electronic memory tag contains stored data including identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor.

7.(previously presented). A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 6 wherein an electronic memory tag contains stored data further including definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel.

8.(previously presented). A diagnostic specimen system comprising:

a population of collection vessels, each having a wireless electronic memory tag attached to the vessel including a radio frequency transponder for non-contact storage and retrieval of information, wherein the population includes members located at a vessel distribution facility, a specimen collection facility, and a specimen testing laboratory;

data stored on an electronic memory tag including an identification code for the vessel, the identity of the supplier of the vessel and product information about the vessel, identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor, and definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel; and

a label imprinted with an identifying bar code attached to each vessel.

9.(currently amended). A toxicology specimen system comprising a population of collection vessels, each configured to receive and contain a toxicology specimen and having a wireless electronic memory tag attached to the vessel for non-contact storage and retrieval of information, wherein the population includes a members located at a vessel distribution facility, a specimen collection facility, and a specimen testing laboratory.

10.(previously presented). A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein each electronic memory tag includes a radio frequency transponder.

11.(previously presented). A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein each electronic memory tag contains stored data including an identification code for the vessel.

12.(previously presented). A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 11 further including a label imprinted with an identifying bar code attached to each vessel.

13.(previously presented). A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein each electronic memory tag contains stored data including the identity of the supplier of the vessel and product information about the vessel.

14.(previously presented). A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein an electronic memory tag contains stored data including identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor.

15.(previously presented). A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 14 wherein an electronic memory tag contains stored data further including definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel.

16.(previously presented). A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein an electronic memory tag contains stored data including an encoded electronic signature of the donor of a toxicology specimen.

17.(currently amended). A toxicology specimen system comprising:

a population of biomedical specimen collection vessels, wherein the population includes a members located at a vessel distribution facility, a specimen collection facility, and a specimen testing laboratory, each vessel having a wireless electronic memory tag attached to the vessel including a radio frequency transponder for non-contact storage and retrieval of information; data stored on the electronic memory tags including an identification code for the ~~container~~ vessel, the identity of the supplier of the ~~container~~ vessel and product information about the vessel, identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor, definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel, and an encoded electronic signature of the donor of the toxicology specimen in the vessel; and a label imprinted with an identifying bar code attached to each vessel.

18.(currently amended). A method for electronically storing information on a diagnostic or toxicology specimen ~~container~~ vessel and remotely reading information from the ~~container~~ vessel comprising:

providing a population of biomedical specimen ~~containers~~ vessels, each having a wireless electronic memory tag attached to the ~~container~~ vessels, wherein the population includes members located at a vessel distribution facility, a specimen collection facility, and a specimen testing laboratory;

electronically storing data on one of the electronic memory tags at the vessel distribution facility;

shipping members with electronically stored data from the vessel distribution facility to the specimen collection facility; and

reading the stored information from the electronic memory tag with a non-contact electronic reader or scanner at a specimen testing laboratory.

19.(currently amended). A method for recording information about a diagnostic or toxicology specimen on a diagnostic or toxicology specimen container comprising:

providing a population of biomedical specimen containers, each having a wireless electronic memory tag attached to the container at a vessel distribution facility;

distributing population members to ~~at~~ a specimen collection facility;

collecting a specimen from a donor in the specimen container at the specimen collection facility; and

electronically storing information about the specimen, donor, and/or tests to be performed on the specimen on the electronic memory tag.

20.(previously presented). A method as claimed in claim 19 further including collecting and storing an electronic signature of the specimen donor on the electronic memory tag at the specimen collection facility.

21.(currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 19 further including transporting the member ~~container~~ vessel with collected specimen from the specimen collection facility to a specimen testing laboratory and storing the results of the analytical tests performed on the specimen in the ~~container~~ vessel on the electronic memory tag at the specimen testing laboratory.

22.(withdrawn). A method for managing the gathering of diagnostic and/or toxicology specimens from multiple specimen collection sites and the delivery of the collected specimens to a reference laboratory comprising:

collecting identity and test data for specimens and specimen donors at multiple collection sites;

entering the collected data into collection site computer databases;

transmitting the collected data from the collection site computer databases to a computer at a reference laboratory by internet connections;

compiling and processing the transmitted data with the laboratory computer to generate a schedule and route for gathering the specimens from the specimen collection sites; and

gathering the specimens from the specimen collection sites according to the schedule and route and delivering the specimens to the reference laboratory.

23.(withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein data collection includes reading information from electronic memory tags attached to containers containing the specimens by scanning the electronic memory tags with an electronic reader/scanner.

24.(withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein data collection includes scanning bar codes imprinted on labels on the specimen containers.

25.(withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein data collection includes entering data into a portable electronic recording device and data entry includes uploading the recorded information from the electronic recording device into a local computer at each specimen collection site.

26.(withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein data collection includes collecting the electronic signatures of specimen donors and data entry includes entering the electronic signatures of the specimen donors into the local computer database.

27.(withdrawn). A method for controlling the receipt, routing, and testing of diagnostic or toxicology specimens at an automated reference laboratory comprising:

delivering diagnostic and/or toxicology specimens to the automated reference laboratory which are contained in specimen containers having specimen and testing information stored on radio frequency memory tags affixed to the specimen containers;

scanning and reading the specimen and testing information from the electronic memory tags on the specimen containers with electronic scanners or readers and transmitting the information to a microprocessor for controlling the automated laboratory equipment; and

processing the read information with the microprocessor and using the processed information to control the sorting, routing, and analytical testing of the specimens by the automated laboratory equipment.

28.(withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 27 further including electronically writing the results of the analytical test or tests for each analyzed specimen to the electronic memory tag on the specimen container containing the corresponding analyzed specimen.

29.(withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 27 further including electronically storing the results of the analytical test or tests and the corresponding specimen identification data on a laboratory computer database.

30.(withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 29 further including printing the analytical test results and corresponding specimen identification data stored on the laboratory computer database to a written test results report.

31.(withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 29 further including transmitting the analytical test results data and corresponding specimen identification data stored on the laboratory computer database to the corresponding original specimen collection site by an internet connection.

32.(withdrawn). A method for managing the collection, control, and testing of diagnostic and/or toxicology specimens and for managing the specimen and testing information associated with such specimens comprising:

providing encoded specimen containers having attached to the containers electronic memory tags with electronic specimen identification codes stored therein and having attached to the containers bar code labels imprinted with identifying bar codes;

correlating the electronic specimen identification code and identifying bar code for each encoded specimen container and storing the correlated codes on a central computer database;

supplying the encoded specimen containers to multiple specimen collection sites;

collecting specimens from specimen donors and placing the specimens in the encoded specimen containers at the specimen collection sites;

gathering data about the collected specimens, specimen donors, and prescribed specimen tests at the specimen collection sites, correlating the gathered data with the identifying bar codes on the corresponding specimen containers, and entering the gathered and correlated data into the central computer database;

transmitting the gathered and stored specimen, donor, and testing data and correlated identity codes from the central computer database to a laboratory computer database at an automated reference laboratory by an internet connection;

processing the received data at the reference laboratory and defining a queue of specimens awaiting collection for delivery to the automated reference laboratory;

using the queue to define a schedule and route for collecting the specimens from the specimen collection sites for delivery to the automated reference laboratory;

gathering the specimens from the specimen collection sites according to the schedule and route and delivering the collected specimens to the automated reference laboratory;

electronically interrogating the electronic memory tags on the delivered specimen containers to detect the associated electronic identity codes and correlating the read data with the specimen data previously transmitted to the laboratory computer database;

automatically sorting the specimens for testing and establishing testing schedules using the correlated specimen and testing data in the laboratory computer database;

automatically routing and testing the specimens through the automated reference laboratory using the correlated specimen and testing data in the laboratory computer database;

electronically recording the test results on the laboratory computer database and correlating the results with the previously recorded specimen data; and

transmitting the recorded and correlated test result data to remote locations.

33. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the data gathering at the specimen collection sites includes scanning the bar codes on the specimen containers with an electronic recording device having a bar code scanner and data entry at the specimen

collection sites includes electronically uploading the bar code data and other recorded specimen data from the electronic recording device to the central computer database.

34. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 33 further including recording and uploading electronic signatures of the specimen donors using the electronic recording device.

35. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the routing and testing step at the automated reference laboratory includes the step of verifying the identity and required testing of each specimen prior to testing by interrogating the electronic memory tag on each specimen container for its electronic identity code and comparing the read code with the correlated specimen and prescribed testing requirements in the laboratory computer database.

36. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the transmission includes transmitting the test results data from the laboratory computer database to the associated specimen collection sites by an internet connection.

37. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 32 further including printing written test result reports and delivering the written test result reports to remote sites.

38. (previously presented) A toxicology specimen system comprising a collection vessel configured to receive and contain a toxicology specimen, a tamper-indicating seal, and wireless electronic memory tag attached to the vessel for non-contact storage and retrieval of

information wherein the electronic memory tag contains stored data including an encoded electronic signature of the donor of a toxicology specimen.

39. (cancelled).

40. (previously presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 further including an electronic database accessible from the specimen collection facility for storing data entered at the collection facility.

41. (previously presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 40 further including an electronic network connecting the specimen collection facility to the specimen testing laboratory for transmitting data from the collection facility to the testing laboratory.

42. (previously presented) A toxicology specimen system comprising a population of collection vessels, each configured to receive and contain a toxicology specimen and having a wireless electronic memory tag attached to the vessel for non-contact storage and retrieval of information, the memory tag containing stored data including an encoded electronic signature of the donor of a toxicology specimen, wherein the population includes a member at a vessel distribution facility, a member at a specimen collection facility, and a member at a specimen testing laboratory.

43. (currently amended) A toxicology specimen system comprising:

a biomedical specimen collection vessel and a tamper-indicating, wireless electronic memory tag attached to the vessel including a radio frequency transponder for non-contact storage and retrieval of information;

data stored on the electronic memory tag including an identification code for the container, the identity of the supplier of the ~~container~~ vessel and product information about the vessel, identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor, definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel, and an encoded electronic signature of the donor of the toxicology specimen in the vessel; and

a label imprinted with an identifying bar code.

44. (currently amended) A method for recording information about a diagnostic or toxicology specimen on a diagnostic or toxicology specimen ~~container~~ vessel comprising:

providing a population of biomedical specimen ~~containers~~ vessels, each having a wireless electronic memory tag attached to the ~~container~~ vessel, wherein the population includes a member at a vessel distribution facility, a member at a specimen collection facility, and a member at a specimen testing laboratory;

collecting a specimen from a donor in the specimen ~~container~~ vessel at the specimen collection facility;

electronically storing information about the specimen, donor, and/or tests to be performed on the specimen on the electronic memory tag; and

collecting and storing the electronic signature of the specimen donor on the electronic memory tag at the specimen collection facility.